

SENATE BILL 826
By Rochelle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 2,
relative to the creation of metropolitan government charter
commissions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-2-101, is amended by adding the
following as subdivision (4):

(4) The commission may be created upon receipt of a petition, signed by
qualified voters of the county, equal to at least twenty (20%) percent of the number of
votes cast in the county for governor in the last gubernatorial election.

(A) Such petition shall be delivered to the county election commission for
certification. After the petition is certified, the county election commission shall
deliver the petition to the governing body of the county and the governing body of
the principal city in the county. Such petition shall become the consolidation
resolution of the county and the principal city in the county. The resolution shall
provide that a metropolitan government charter commission is established to
propose to the people the consolidation of all, or substantially all, of the
government and corporate functions of the county and its principal city and the
creation of a metropolitan government for the administration of the consolidated
functions.

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(B) Such resolution shall either:

(i) Authorize the county executive or county mayor to appoint ten (10) commissioners, subject to confirmation by the county governing body, and authorize the mayor of the principal city to appoint five (5) commissioners, subject to confirmation by the city governing body; or

(ii) Provide that an election shall be held to select members of the metropolitan government charter commission; provided, however, if the governing body of the county and the governing body of the principal city cannot agree on the method of selecting members of the metropolitan government charter commission within sixty (60) days of certification, then an election shall be held to select members of the metropolitan government charter commission as provided in Section 7-2-102.

(C) It is the legislative intent that the persons appointed to the charter commission shall be broadly representative of all areas of the county and principal city and that every effort shall be made to include representatives from various political, social, and economic groups within the county and principal municipality.

(D) When such resolution shall provide for the appointment of commissioners of the county and city, the metropolitan government charter commission shall be created and duly constituted after appointments have been made and confirmed.

(E) When such resolution shall provide for an election to select members of the metropolitan government charter commission, copies thereof

shall be certified by the clerk of the governing bodies to the county election commission, and thereupon an election shall be held as provided in Section 7-2-102.

(F) When the consolidation resolution provides for the appointment of members of the metropolitan government charter commission, such appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after the resolution is submitted to the governing bodies of the county and the principal city.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-2-101(1)(B)(i), is amended by deleting the words “presiding officer of the county governing body” and substituting instead the words “county executive or county mayor”.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-2-101(2)(B), is amended by deleting the words “presiding officer of the county governing body” and substituting instead the words “county executive or county mayor”.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-2-101(2)(B)(i), is amended by deleting wherever they may appear, the words “presiding officer of the county governing body” and substituting instead the words “county executive or county mayor”.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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